

REMARKS

Applicants have amended claims 4, 8, and 9 to more appropriately define the claimed invention. Claims 1 – 27 remain pending, with claims 1 – 23 under current examination, and claims 24 – 27 withdrawn from consideration as drawn to a nonelected invention.

Regarding the Office Action:

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph; rejected claims 8 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph; and indicated that claims 1 – 3, 5 – 7, and 10 – 23 are allowed. Applicants traverse the rejections, as detailed above, for the following reasons.

Regarding the Restriction Requirement:

Applicants affirm the oral election to prosecute Group I, claims 1 – 23, characterized by the Examiner as “drawn to a product” (Office Action, p. 2), without traverse.

Regarding the Specification:

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner’s request for cooperation in correcting any errors in the specification, and Applicants will correct any errors of which they may become aware.

Regarding the Rejection of Claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 1st ¶:

Applicants have amended claim 4 to change “second wiring” to “first wiring,” thereby overcoming the rejection and enabling “any person skilled in the art ... to make the invention commensurate with the scope [of the] claims” (Office Action, p. 3). Accordingly, Applicants request withdrawal of this rejection.

Regarding the Rejection of Claims 8 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd ¶:

Applicants have amended claims 8 and 9 to change “surrounded by a space” to “an air-bridge wiring,” thereby overcoming the rejection. Support for this amendment may be found in

the specification on page 92, line 21 to page 93, line 1, and in Fig. 29F, as well as on page 96, lines 12 – 19, and in Fig. 30F. Accordingly, Applicants request withdrawal of this rejection.

Conclusion:

In view of the foregoing, Applicants request reconsideration of the application and withdrawal of the rejections. Pending claims 1 – 23 are in condition for allowance, and Applicants request a favorable action.

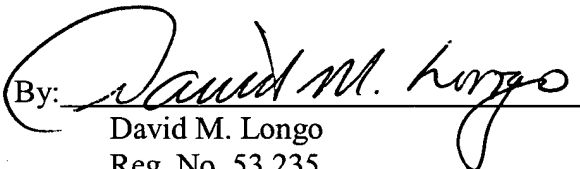
Should the Examiner continue to dispute the patentability of the claims after consideration of this Amendment, Applicants encourage the Examiner to contact their undersigned representative by telephone to discuss any remaining issues or to resolve any misunderstandings.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: August 13, 2004

By: 
David M. Longo
Reg. No. 53,235

/direct telephone: (202) 408-4489/